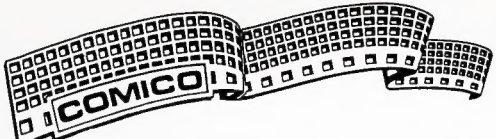
COMICO

Attractions 8

Harlan Ellison and Ken Steacy

Photo copyright Mark Leialoha

Enter at your own risk!



At first glance, the cover of this edition of **Comico Attractions** (our very first featuring actual photos of live persons) may seem to present rare snaps of the mysterious terrorist and assassin Abu Nidal, and his Eurasian sidekick, Nezar Nawaf "Snuffy" Mansour Hindawi. But look again. Hey, I know the resemblance is only strictly amazing, but those two guys over there are actually **Harlan Ellison** and **Ken Steacy.** If you think *you're* startled, imagine what a time we had here at the vast, sprawling Comico publishing complex when investigators from the CIA and Interpol and the Israeli Mossad presented their credentials and started grilling editor **Diana Schutz!**

No, no, we kept insisting, those aren't international killers, terrorists, and general all-around mean guys, them is award-winning author **Harlan Ellison** *(on the left)* and wizardly airbrush artist **Ken Steacy** *(on the right).* And they are on the cover of this puff sheet because they have created this incredible full-color 8½" x 11" classy graphic novel they've titled **Night and the Enemy**—not because we lucked into a couple of photos of the two Most Wanted Criminals in the World.

Tell us more, said the authorities, and Schutz (who'll spill her guts for a slice of pizza, fer crine out loud) began babbling, "This is the first time Ellison's famous 'Kyben War' stories have been brought together. There are five of them, really swell stories; two of them, in fact, haven't even seen print since they were first published in long-lost sf magazines in 1956-57. They're rip-roaring stories, yet fraught with human emotion," she blubbered, using words too big for her britches.

"You're drooling on my polyester," said the guy from the CIA.

So I stepped in quickly and efficiently (which is why I'm the top dog around here). "Let me put it this way," I said, fixing the Mossad operative with my famous steely glare. "These integrated stories — for which Ellison has written a brand-new surprise framing device to unify the cycle of narratives — are set against the backdrop of a two-century-long war between Earth and the planet Kyba . . . "

"A war?" the CIA guy said, his eyes sparkling, Col. Ollie North's coded phone number in his hot little hand. "A war?"

"An *interstellar* war," I hastened to add. "Not a Contra in sight. Stories that previously appeared in black-and-white in *Epic Illustrated* some years ago. Well, at least three of them did. The other two, as I said, are new, fresh, here for the first time. Honest, not one single Contra. And Steacy, who has been Ellison's artistic better-half on all these yarns, has done a sensational new color cover, and has reworked almost all of the material, plus creating new interior artwork, and all of it in color for the first time!"

They listened carefully, made notes, and I could see that I'd moved in to save Diana at just the right moment. And I know this for sure, as sure as I am that **Night and the Enemy** is going to be the graphic novel hit of the year, because when they took Schutz away they swore she wouldn't get more than seven years, four with good behavior.

It could have been worse. They could have sentenced her to life reading John Byrne scripts.

* * * * *

Whew! Now that *that's* over, step back here with me to our beautiful back cover, illustrated by another very talented Canadian artist, **Bernie** *(The Jam, MacKenzie Queen)* **Mireault.** In keeping with **Matt Wagner's** vision for his two-time Kirby-Award-nominated series, **Grendel,** the artists and art styles will change as the story line progresses. Beginning in October there are a lot of surprises in store for Grendel — a character that has been with us from the start of Comico's publishing history — not the least of which is the introduction of Mr. Mireault to this critically-acclaimed series. The cover paintings alone for Bernie's three issues are the most stunning pieces I've ever laid eyes on! They were pencilled by Mireault and then painted in oils and montaged by (yeah, him again) **Ken Steacy.** Grendel fans, start lickin' yer chops as Matt and Bernie push the limits of sequential art (that's comic books, folks!) yet one step further!

Other Grendel-related publications happening in October are the **Comico Collection** and the Comico **Black Book.** Both are specially designed products that tie in with the fact that October marks our fifth year of publishing. Yeah! More on that next edition. Anyway, the **Black Book** is an in-depth look back at those first five years, as chronicled by first-hand personal accounts from our in-house staff as well as from the creators, writers, and artists behind some of your favorite characters and titles. It will feature some all-new art and text from the likes of **Dave Stevens, Frank Thorne, Harlan Ellison, Steve Rude, Matt Wagner, Mike Gustovich, Pander Bros., Doug Rice,** and many more. You'll get a peek at **Max Headroom 3-D** and your first look at **Mage II: The Hero Defined** by **Matt Wagner.** It's a really pretty book with a wrap-around Grendel cover by **Matt Wagner** that is to die for!

The other really innovative anniversary package is explained in detail in the following hype. It's something we're calling the **Comico Collection,** and it is a neat little concept, if I may say so myself! Because **Grendel** is Comico's flagship title, we decided to feature the character as an integral part of the program. Check it out. Also, if you think of it, talk to your local comic shop owner about having a Comico-sponsored anniversary party at his location. They know where to find me to set it up.

Well, shut my mouth, I'm outta room! Only blipverts can save me now! — ROBO — ON — TECH — SALE — IN — NOW — 3-D —— blipvert —— FISH — IN — POLICE — OCTOBER —— blipvert —— SPACE — IN — GHOST — DECEMBER — (stick that one on yer calendar!) —— DOUBLE BLIPVERT —— MATT WAGNER TO WRITE GRENDEL NOVEL FOR BALLANTINE BOOKS! — (is no lie!) — ALSO — MAX — IN — HEAD — 1988 — ROOM —— blipvert —— 3-D — THE — GREAT — CROWDED — MUSIC — HOUSE — end transmission.

Just trying to be,
Bob Schreck
Administrative Director

Coming from COMICO...

Shipping September 4th, 1987
Newsstand titles on sale 9/30/87

GRENDEL #12: *The conclusion of Christine Spar as Grendel. Written by* ***Matt Wagner*** *and illustrated by the* ***Pander Bros.*** *This issue contains adult themes, graphic violence, and harsh language. Parental Guidance Suggested.*

JUSTICE MACHINE #9: *In the wake of one Machiner's shocking death, Challenger learns a startling secret. Plus, will there be a new member of the JM? It all happens in "Seven Days," by writer* ***Tony Isabella*** *and artist* ***Mike Gustovich.***

ROBOTECH The New Generation #18: *When Scott and his crew ride into a "Ghost Town," they land in jail! Join the guest creative team of writer* ***Lawrence Schick,*** *penciller* ***Thomas A. Tenney,*** *and inker* ***Bill Anderson*** *for the excitement!*

Shipping September 18th, 1987
Newsstand titles on sale 10/30/87

ELEMENTALS #17: *Vortex has been blinded, and uses himself as bait to lure a vampire in "The Adventures of Captain Cadaver." Story and pencils by* ***Bill Willingham,*** *inks by* ***Keith Wilson.*** *This issue contains strong sexual overtones.*

JONNY QUEST #16: *Without warning, everyone in the entire city is turning into a werewolf, including . . . a member of the Quest clan! "Plague," by writer* ***William Messner-Loebs*** *and artists* ***Mark Wheatley*** *and* ***Kathryn Mayer,*** *concludes the story begun last issue.*

ROBOTECH The Macross Saga #22: *A group of renegade Zentraedi warriors plans desertion — will they thwart the evil plans of their masters? Writer* ***Markalan Joplin*** *and penciller* ***Mike Leeke*** *welcome back celebrated inker* ***Mike Chen*** *for "Battle Hymn."*

JONNY QUEST TM and © 1987 Hanna-Barbera Productions, Inc.

Shipping October 2, 1987
Newsstand titles on sale 10/30/87

THE COMICO BLACK BOOK: *A special fifth-anniversary celebration featuring an index of your favorite Comico titles presented in the popular "universe" format, with new art and writing, as well as the history of Comico The Comic Company.* ***Matt Wagner*** *provides the special* ***Grendel*** *cover for this must-have collector's item!*

GRENDEL #13: *Brian immerses himself in the nightmare that is New York City. His despair grows as Grendel continues. Written by* ***Matt Wagner*** *and illustrated by* ***Bernie Mireault.*** *This issue contains adult themes and harsh language. Parental Guidance Suggested.*

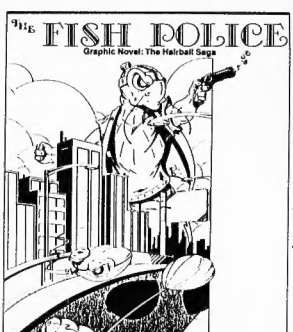
JUSTICE MACHINE #10: *Revealed at last . . . the final fate of the Justice Machine! Who will live and who will die? Join writer* ***Tony Isabella*** *and artist* ***Mike Gustovich*** *for a "Father's Day" you'll never forget!*

ROBOTECH Masters #19: *Who is Zor? A hero? A traitor? A spy? Learn the truth as he infiltrates the Masters' ship with the help of the lovely Musica. "Crisis Point" is an all-out action fest by scripter* ***Mike Baron,*** *penciller* ***Neil D. Vokes,*** *and inker* ***Tom Poston***

GRENDEL TM and © 1987 Matt Wagner/Comico The Comic Company

Shipping October 9, 1987

FISH POLICE: HAIRBALLS Graphic Novel: *The story of police inspector Gill, who suddenly awakes to a new reality — he's a fish! Presenting the first four issues of the acclaimed* ***Fish Police*** *series in one color volume, written and illustrated by creator* ***Steve Moncuse!*** *A whimsical blend of fantasy and fun. Introduction by award-winning writer* ***Harlan Ellison.***



FISH POLICE TM and © 1987 Fishwrap Productions and Steven B. Moncuse

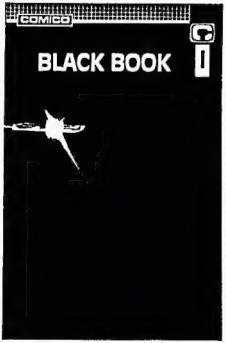
Shipping October 16, 1987
Newsstand titles on sale 11/30/87

COMICO ATTRACTIONS #9: *Check it out — the latest edition of the new, improved* ***Comico Attractions!*** *It's stuffed with news about upcoming Comico products and future projects, and all-new color art adorns the cover!*

ELEMENTALS #18: *From the depths of hell, the ultimate master of evil returns to threaten the world, as Monolith slugs it out with the escaped Behemoth! Story by* ***Bill Willingham,*** *pencils by* ***Grant Miehm,*** *and inks by* ***Keith Wilson.***

JONNY QUEST #17: *Dr. Quest and family take off for a paradise island vacation, only to find that what awaits them is no holiday! It's just "Another Stuart Gold Production," by writer* ***William Messner-Loebs*** *and artists* ***Marc Hempel, Mark Wheatley,*** *and* ***Kathryn Mayer.***

ROBOTECH The New Generation #19: *The rebel fighters have stumbled upon the remains of an underground city, and when the feelings between Scott and Marlene heat up, there is no danger of catching "Frostbite." Scripted by* ***Markalan Joplin,*** *pencilled by* ***Reggie Byers,*** *and inked by* ***Rich Rankin.***



Shipping October 23, 1987

THE COMICO COLLECTION: *A one-time only, specially-priced, deluxe package containing 10 different Comico back issues, a Comico poster, a copy of the latest* ***Comico Attractions,*** *and an all-new, 16-page* ***Grendel*** *comic written by* ***Matt Wagner*** *and illustrated by* ***Dean Motter,*** *all collected in a Wagner-designed* ***Grendel*** *slipcase!*

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